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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,165	06/25/2003	Don Billow	49967/OSB/I222	3598
23363	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
PO BOX 7068				
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/606,165	BILLOW ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Alexander D. Gilman	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/03/2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,10,11,13,15-18,21,22 and 24-31 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,10,11,13,15-18,21,22 and 24-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
      1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

**DETAILED ACTION*****Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 15-18, 21, 22, 24, 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mano et al in view of Freeman et al.

With regard to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16 Mano et al (US 6,712,649) disclose (Fig. 1, 2, 9,10) a spring clip-connector assembly comprising:

a spring clip connector including a housing (15) having a front wall with an opening (35) for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab (105) located in the housing, the movable tab having a handle portion (39) and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact (end of 33) positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall, and a spring (33, 83) wherein the housing includes a resilient member and the base product includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate, and wherein the tab is movable between a closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab toward the closed position.

Mano does not disclose the structural features of attachment the clip connector (Fig 2, 9, 10) within opening in a faceplate using a resilient member.

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Freeman et al (US 5,366,388) disclose the structural features of attachment of a connector (12, 16) within opening (22) in a faceplate using a cantilever resilient member (36, 32).

With regard to claim 13, Mano et al-Freeman et al disclose (Mano, Fig. 12, Freeman et al Fig. 1)) that the front wall has two openings

With regard to claim 17, Mano et al-Freeman et al disclose (Mano et al) that the spring is not engaging the faceplate..

With regard to claim 18, Mano et al-Freeman et al disclose the structure which is assembled and operated using steps claimed.

With regard to claim 21, Mano et al-Freeman et al disclose (Mano et al) the tab being insertable into the housing through a front opening (79) of the housing adjacent the front wall of the housing..

With regard to claims 22, 25 Mano et al disclose that the housing includes a resilient finger tab ((the end portion of 33) to engage and secure the conductor to the housing .

With regard to claim 24, Mano et al disclose the conductor includes an upwardly extending rear wall and a bottom wall (the walls of 27) extending forward from a bottom edge of the rear wall.

With regard to claim 26, Mano et al disclose that the spring (83) is a coil spring.

With regard to claims 28-30, Mano et al –Freeman et al disclose (Mano et al, Fig. 12, Freeman et al, Fig. 1) two openings for two connectors

With regard to claim 31, Mano et al –Freeman et al disclose (Mano et al, Fig. 10) two tabs (77),.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/11/2005



ALEXANDER GILMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER